United Nations E/C.2/1999/2/Add.12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 March 1999

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
1999 session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific	2
2.	International Scientific and Educational "Znanie" Association	4
3.	International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)	7
4.	International Association of Schools of Social Work	9
5.	International Council of Women	11
6.	International Road Federation	15
7.	International Union of Socialist Youth	19
8.	World Blind Union	21
9.	World Federation of the Deaf	22
10.	World Organization of the Scout Movement	25

* E/C.2/1999/1.

99-07949 (E) 210599

1. Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

What is ADFIAP?

The Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) is a regional organization of development banks and other financial institutions engaged in the financing of development in the region. ADFIAP's vision is to promote development financing as a means to enhance the quality of life of peoples in the region and to achieve sustainable regional development.

ADFIAP organizes forums, seminars and consultative gatherings with international organizations that share the Association's development objectives. Among these international organizations are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank (EDI/WB), the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), the International Trade Centre (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development/World Trade Organization (UNCTAD/WTO) (ITC), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and others.

Membership

ADFIAP's membership geographically covers the entire Asia-Pacific region. From an original 31 charter signatories in 1977, its roster grew to 78 development banks and financial institutions from 33 countries as of June 1998. This also includes some institutions outside the region such as those from Egypt, Canada, Brazil and Jamaica. The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are Special Members of the Association.

Key officers of the ADFIAP Secretariat are Mr. Orlando P. Peña, Secretary-General and Mr. Octavio B. Peralta, Deputy Secretary-General.

Review of ADFIAP's activities and projects

Annual conferences

Every year, members of ADFIAP gather to tackle issues relevant to their operations and their economies. Between 1994 and 1997, ADFIAP members had touched on both different locales of the region and varying issues affecting them:

(a) Seventeenth ADFIAP Annual Conference, 28 to 30 April 1994, Karachi, Pakistan; host: National Development Finance Corporation; theme: "Maximizing DFI Resources and Capabilities for the 21st Century: Issues, Problems and Directions";

(b) Eighteenth ADFIAP Annual Conference, 27 to 29 April 1995, Sydney, Australia; host: Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia; theme: "Enhancing DFI Competitiveness and Service Excellence Through Innovative Banking Technology";

(c) Nineteenth ADFIAP Annual Conference, 26 to 28 April 1996, Phuket, Thailand; host: Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand; theme: "New Business Opportunities and Challenges for Development Banks";

(d) Twentieth ADFIAP Annual Conference and First World Summit on Development Finance, 5 to 8 May 1997, Manila, Philippines; host: Development Bank of the Philippines; theme: "Financing Development in the New World Trade Order".

Training programmes

ITC-ADFIAP programmes: between 1994 and 1997, ADFIAP had organized the following programmes in collaboration with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) and UNDP:

(a) Regional Workshop for Senior Project Officers of DFIs on Financing SMEs, 29 November to 1 December 1994, Manila, Philippines;

(b) Training the Trainers Seminar Workshop in Joint Venture Development, 5 to 8 December 1994, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Symposia/forums

(a) Private Sector Energy Power Generation Financing, 28 April 1994, Karachi, Pakistan;

(b) Second Human Resources Management Forum, 14 to 15 October 1996, Manila, Philippines.

Publications

ADFIAP produces a number of publications suited to the needs of its members. The publications are aimed at disseminating information, and at updating as well as enhancing DFI operations. The ADFIAP newsletter covers the latest activities and programmes of the Association and its members. The *Executive Memogenda* contains new ideas, trends and best practices to promote excellence in development banking. The *Journal of Development Finance* is a quarterly publication which features technical papers, reports and proceedings of seminars or conferences. Among the subjects the Journal covered between 1994 and 1997 were:

(a) 1994: *Financing Small and Medium Enterprises* (papers from the Symposium on SMEs held at Hanoi, Viet Nam); *Maximizing DFI Resources and Capabilities for 21st Century, Issues, Problems and Directions* (papers from the ADFIAP Karachi Conference); *Securities Market Regulation and Supervision* (papers from the ADB Asia-Pacific Forum on Securities Market Regulation and Supervision); *Negotiation and Bargaining* (research papers and contributions from affiliates);

(b) 1995: *Environmental Issues* (environment papers from the World Bank and ADB); *Enhancing DFI Competitiveness and Service Excellence through Innovative Banking Technology* (papers from the ADFIAP Sydney Conference); *Global Issues on Women* (contributory articles and papers from the Fourth World Conference on Women);

(c) 1996: *Urban Financing* (contributory and researched articles); *The Development Role of Financing* (contributory and researched articles); *Human Resource Management* (contributory and researched articles);

(d) 1997: *Mutual Funds* (contributory and researched articles); *Microenterprise Development and Financing* (contributory and researched articles).

Major projects

Major projects are:

(a) A-Net: A-Net or ADFIAP's Global Network for electronic banking and commerce was created to link ADFIAP members and their clients and to offer the latest state-of-the-art Web-based services to members, thus levelling the playing field for small enterprises which are the bulk of the member bank's clients. The ADFIAP home page can be accessed at http://www.adfiap.org Web sites of members are linked to ADFIAP page, providing easy accessibility both to co-members and clients;

(b) National Consultative Summits on Development Finance, organized under ADFIAP's initiative to help countries formulate strategic goals of improving their capacity to determine the sustainability of their national development; and to create the forum for discussion of and achieve consensus on action required to improve policies, projects and programmes on the financing of development;

(c) *Asian Banking Digest (ABD)*, the region's premier magazine for bankers co-published with the Asian Banker's Association (ABA), the 190 member-strong commercial banking group in the region;

(d) Asia Pacific Bankers Congress (APBC), yearly congress: a learning-cum-networking event for all bankers in the region. It features simultaneous "how-to" workshops, the Bankers World Expo and the Asian Banking Awards which cite the best projects and practices of banks in the region.

For more information on the Association, please access our Web site at http://www.adfiap.org.

2. International Scientific and Educational "Znanie" Association

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

The International Scientific and Educational "Znanie" Association is an international non-profit alliance of national and other non-governmental organizations which was voluntarily established and based on dissemination of scientific, technical and humanitarian knowledge for mutual benefit.

The main aims and objectives of the Association are to pool efforts and promote intellectual and humanitarian activities of the Association's members, aimed at a higher educational and cultural level of the people, as well as to develop contacts among scientists and specialists of different countries and to provide conditions for international information exchange.

The Association is confident that the role of disseminating knowledge and education will be strengthened under the conditions of the information revolution.

Based on the 50 years' experience and traditions of its predecessor, All-Union Society "Znanie" of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), our Association seeks to

develop international cooperation in the field of knowledge dissemination and Adult Education strictly following Agenda 21 (chap. 36).

Adult Education as an instrument of social development which underlies stable humanity development is a motto, concept and the main objective of our activity. So when disseminating knowledge and information, we promote a higher educational and cultural level of the people, above all, of the Russian Federation and of other countries, members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as educating people in the spirit of democratic traditions and ethical recovery of society.

In 1991, 14 non-governmental educational organizations, "Znanie" societies of all States and former union republics of the USSR except Lithuania, as well as some non-governmental organizations of Italy, Mongolia, the Czech Republic and Japan joined our Association.

During the period 1994–1997 the following non-governmental organizations of the Russian Federation joined the Association: International Economists Union, General Russian Association "Promoting Higher Educational Institutions", the Ural Department of Russian Academy of Engineering Sciences, Interregional Alliance "Svetotekhnika Engineering Society" and "Disarmament for Development" Foundation, as well as some non-governmental organizations of China, Romania and the United States of America. At present, our Association maintains productive business contacts with scientific and educational organizations in more than 20 countries.

The Association is a member of the World Adult Education Council and European Adult Education Association and cooperates with these organizations.

During the period 1995–1997, representatives of the Association participated in the following meetings: General Assembly of the European Adult Education Association (Copenhagen, Denmark); annual meeting of the organization members of the European Adult Education Association on Cooperation with East European countries (Florence, Italy); International Seminar of Editors of Adult Education Publications (Helsinki, Finland); International Seminar on Adult Education (Sofia, Bulgaria); International Seminar on Telecommunications: the Use in Adult Education (Salzburg, Austria); International Conference on "The Role of the Academy of Sciences in the Balkan countries" (Athens, Greece); Fifth World Congress on Adult Education held under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) auspices (July 1997, Hamburg, Germany); Sixth International Informatization Forum held by the International Informatization Academy in Moscow (Social-scientific area non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 50/6); International Conference "Innovation Forum 97" (Houston, Texas, United States). The President of the Association made reports and statements at the above conferences and seminars and the International Forum in Moscow. Besides, the President of the Association participated in the World Economical Forum (30 January–4 February 1997, Davos, Switzerland), the annual meeting of "The Rome Club" in 1997 (Puerto Rico) and the Executive Committee meeting of the International Vienna Council (21 and 22 April 1997), as well as in the meetings of the CIS Council of Heads of State and Government.

Representatives of the Association were accredited to United Nations bodies in New York, Vienna and Geneva and have been sent there lately.

The activities of the Association and its members, representatives in different countries, are focused on popularizing and disseminating humanitarian and technical

knowledge, on developing information training and scientific and research projects and programmes and on holding important international and regional conferences and seminars. For this purpose, in particular, the Executive Committee of the Association has established an International Educational Centre due to which the Association's capabilities of disseminating knowledge and adult education have increased lately (in 1996 and 1997). International conferences were held on the following subjects: "Scientific and Technologic Achievements" and "The Role of the Academy of Sciences in Disseminating Knowledge". Besides, in 1997 the Educational Centre held seminars on the following: "Children with Limited Abilities: Social Adaptation and Integration", "Fundamentals of Conductive Pedagogics", "The Role of Notarizing in Enterprise Activities", "The Strategy of the Election Campaign: Analysis, Planning and Implementation".

At present, the efforts of the Association are aimed at developing a Continued Adult Education System in the Russian Federation and other CIS member countries. These activities of the Association are based on the declaration and resolutions of the Fifth World Adult Education Conference.

In 1997, on the Association's initiative, the Committee of Heads of Government of the CIS member countries adopted "An Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Disseminating Knowledge and Adult Education" and "The regulations of the Inter-State Committee for Disseminating Knowledge and Adult Education".

The Association is accredited to the Committee for Disseminating Knowledge and Adult Education. The establishment of this Committee is a great victory for non-governmental organizations which are now able to participate in the search for solutions of the main State, inter-State and world problems.

The Committee was established with due regard for the principal world trend: to revise the arguments and instruments of social development for the benefit of stable development of humanity, in line with Agenda 21.

The Association seeks to provide a wide range of informational services. The Association has already made the first steps in this direction: its Informational and Consulting Agency has been established. The first version of the model law on adult education has been developed. The International Association productively cooperates with UNESCO-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to implement the International Programme on Environmental Education for the purpose of supporting Governments, as well as national, regional and international organizations, that promote environmental education, both formal and non-formal.

Since 1991, the Association has been engaged in the translation into Russian, publication and free distribution of *Connect - UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Education Newsletter* (Russian version). The Bulletin was distributed among appropriate organizations in the Russian Federation and other CIS member countries, as well as in Latvia and Estonia.

In 1996 (3–7 October), the Sixth Congress of the International Association was held in Kishinev (Republic of Moldova), where a new concept of the Association's activity was reviewed and approved. According to the new concept, great attention is paid to the following activities: informative education, adult education, culture and environment. Under each of these activities, various projects have been drafted and are now under implementation.

At present, great attention is paid to the project "Cooperation" aimed at developing integration contacts within CIS, as well as international contacts, in particular, with regard to the project "I am the Man of the Earth".

The Association is ready to cooperate on mutually beneficial terms with any non-governmental organizations that share our aims and objectives and conform to the basic principle of Economic and Social Council activity stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

3. International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)

(Special consultative status granted 1966)

Introduction

The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental global association of port and harbor authorities founded in 1955, presently comprising some 340 members, mostly of public port authorities, covering 85 countries and territories the world over. Its principal object, as laid out in its Constitution, is to "develop and foster good relations and cooperation among all ports and harbors of the world" by promoting greater efficiency of all ports and harbors through the exchange of information on new techniques and technology relating to port development, organization, administration and management.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1994:

(a) The organization's representative attended the 1994 Conference at which the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat briefed the representatives of the non-governmental organizations that have varying liaison relationships with the United Nations and its agencies;

(b) The organization's representative attended the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Seventeenth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention of 1972, 3–7 October, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) The organization's representative attended the third session of the Working Group on Ship/Port Interface (SPI) of IMO, 24–28 October, London, United Kingdom;

(d) The organization's representative attended the sixty-fourth session of the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO, 5–9 December, London, United Kingdom.

1995:

(a) The organization's representative attended the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite Seminar on the Social and Labour Effects of Structural Adjustment in the Port Industries of Selected Asian and Pacific Countries, 15–21 March, Pattaya, Thailand;

(b) The organization hosted and sponsored a meeting of the IMO London Convention (1972) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Dredged Material, 23–27 January, at the Port of Los Angeles, United States of America;

(c) The organization's representative attended the third meeting of the IMO Amendment Group of the London Convention 1972, 24–28 April, London, United Kingdom;

(d) The organization's representative attended the sixty-fifth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, 9–17 May, London, United Kingdom;

(e) The organization's representative attended the eighteenth meeting of the IMO Scientific Group of the London Convention 1972, 10–14 July, London, United Kingdom;

(f) The organization's representative attended the eighteenth meeting of the IMO London Convention 1972, 4–8 December, London, United Kingdom;

(g) The organization's representative attended the nineteenth IMO Assembly, 13–23 November, London, United Kingdom.

1996:

(a) The organization's representative attended the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Intergovernmental Meeting of Port Experts, 18–22 March, Geneva, Switzerland;

(b) The organization's representative attended a meeting of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law regarding Model Law on Electronic Commerce, 14 June, New York, United States;

(c) The organization's representative attended the ILO Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Problems caused by Structural Adjustments in the Port Industry, 20–24 May, Geneva, Switzerland;

(d) The organization's representative attended a joint meeting of the twenty-fourth session of the IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL24) and the fourth session of the Working Group on Ship/Port Interface (SPIWG), 8–12 January, London, United Kingdom;

(e) The organization's representative attended the IMO International Conference on Hazardous and Noxious Substances, and Limitation of Liability, 15 April to 3 May, London, United Kingdom;

(f) The organization's representative attended the nineteenth meeting of the IMO London Convention 1972 Scientific Group, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(g) The organization's representative attended the seventy-fourth session of the IMO Legal Committee, 14–18 October, London, United Kingdom.

1997:

(a) The organization's representative attended the thirty-ninth session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, 10–14 March, London, United Kingdom;

(b) The organization's representative attended the twenty-fifth session of the IMO Facilitation Committee, 30 June–4 July, London, United Kingdom;

(c) The organization's representative attended the sixty-eighth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, 28 May to 6 June, London, United Kingdom;

(d) The organization's representative attended the seventy-sixth session of the IMO Legal Committee, 13–17 October, London, United Kingdom.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

1996: the organization assisted the UNCTAD Ports Section in drafting Monograph No. 13 entitled "Freeport development: the Mauritius experience", and Monograph No. 14, entitled "Sustainable development strategies for cities and ports", both of which were published in 1996.

Other relevant activities

1994: the organization's Legal Counsellor published in its journal his report on the activities of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development during 1993 and of the results of the Commission's session, 16–27 May 1994, in New York, emphasizing the importance of the Commission's role in follow-up on the fulfilment of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

4. International Association of Schools of Social Work

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) has a mission statement which subscribes and is fully committed to upholding the United Nations declarations, conventions and protocols on human rights. The purpose of IASSW is to further social work, promote the development of social work education and to assist educators to exchange and develop improved and responsive programmes of study and research. IASSW cooperation with allied non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies; the conducting of congresses, seminars and workshops based on individual members' research and curriculum developments; and the publication of reports, books and other literature, a newsletter and a journal are some of the means used to fulfil these aims. IASSW is also in the midst of creating its own Web site.

The period encompassed by the present report was dominated in its early days by the restructuring of IASSW, following the closure of its international office in Vienna and the dismissal of its paid staff, and its conversion into a body that is administered by its Officers, who now work on a voluntary basis from their respective universities. This arrangement was confirmed by the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of members in Amsterdam in July 1994 when a new constitution was approved. There is now no Secretary-General. Moreover, many activities have been devolved to regional level and take place in member schools. Communications to IASSW should be sent to the President.

Membership has continued to rise. Countries that have had no social work education for political or ideological reasons, such as those in Eastern Europe, East Asia, West Asia and North Africa, have begun to create new schools and have continued to seek the advice and support of IASSW and its member schools. There are now over 1,700 schools of social work at tertiary level throughout the world. These have been compiled in the IASSW Directory.

Affiliations to international non-governmental organizations during this period include the Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Misereor (Germany), Caritas International and the International Red Cross.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

IASSW has continued supporting the activities of the Economic and Social Council, particularly those relating to the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995; and the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. We continue to work on the follow-up to these conferences with other international non-governmental organizations, particularly the International Council on Social Welfare and the International

Federation of Social Workers. Follow-up events on social development in which we participated included a conference in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) in 1996, another in Paris in 1998 and another in Montreal in 2000. In respect of women, these occurred in China, Hong Kong SAR in 1996 and New York in 1997. Additionally, we have been active in planning and executing activities related to the International Year of Older Persons. These efforts will reach full fruition next year. We are also involved in sponsoring activities associated with the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

United Nations agency cooperation

Much of the work in this area has been taking place at regional level and within member schools and has included the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Their activities have encompassed dealing with the problems of refugees in Bosnia, and victims in areas of natural disasters, and research into all of the social problems associated with poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, health and mental health problems, criminal behaviour and sexual violence against children. Additionally, curriculum development has occurred in a number of these areas.

The President has been involved in making contributions to the international non-governmental organization forums that have been working on women's issues, anti-racist issues and social development issues. She has also attended United Nations seminars centring around anti-racism and migrants in Geneva.

The IASSW representatives at the non-governmental organization Unit at the United Nations in New York are particularly active in women's issues and children's rights issues. They have also been very involved in the planning and execution of the annual Social Work Day.

Other relevant activities

Each of the five regions of IASSW has its own links with United Nations agencies. For example, the Asia-Pacific region has been active in the work of UNDP and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Our schools in the Africa region have been actively involved with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on structural adjustment issues. The Latin America region has been involved in matters connected with the United Nations Conference on Environment Development (Rio Earth Summit) on environmental issues. Poverty alleviation measures have also been part of their remit. The European region has been active in the European Community and Council of Europe and their support of United Nations initiatives. The North American region has been supporting a range of activities centring around migration, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), children's rights and countering domestic violence.

The President and the United Nations representatives in New York are the main points of contact with officials of the United Nations Secretariat. The United Nations representatives in New York have prepared papers and other documents as required in the promotion of United Nations activities. They have also attended United Nations events in New York and meet regularly with United Nations officials.

5. International Council of Women

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Aims and purposes

According to its Constitution, the International Council of Women (ICW), founded in 1888, aims to unite women of all nations, races, religions or cultural traditions for a common action to promote equality between women and men, promote development and work in favour of achieving peace through the peaceful resolutions of conflicts.

ICW was already in relationship with the League of Nations and was one of the international organizations in the first group of 39 accepted into non-governmental consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1947. It was promoted to general consultative status in 1969. Moreover the International Council of Women was admitted in special relationship with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as early as 1960.

Through its international network, the ICW is able to offer a well-adapted structure for the dissemination of information, ideas and decisions adopted by the different bodies of the United Nations. ICW is currently engaged in mainstreaming the gender issues in all spheres of human activities.

Composition

At present, the International Council of Women is composed of 78 National Councils of Women, in the same number of States (since ICW's last report in 1992, new Councils were affiliated to ICW) and all their Constitutions are based on the same principles. Before affiliation is granted, those national Councils have to show their will to adhere to those principles to also be representative of all the women of this country. This commitment is not always an easy one; the National Council of South Africa, whose women joined ICW in 1913, had to fight to maintain its pluriracial nature until apartheid was dismantled. Now the National Council is mainstreaming the gender issues brought forth by the change of system.

Participation in United Nations summits, conferences, meetings, commissions

ICW is conscious of the privilege of being in relationship with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations system, which are the sole institutions empowered to keep peace in the world and without peace no progress will ever be possible.

ICW presents an efficient network ready to disseminate the resolutions, decisions and other texts adopted by the United Nations and, on the other hand, ICW is able to bring to the public attention the voices of weaker women's groups which have not at their disposal the means to making their voices heard.

ICW is following with the greatest interest the progress of the peaceful revolution bringing women to the same level as men.

To implement this objective, ICW is appointing a network of accredited representatives to the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations specialized agencies and bodies.

Representatives are also active with the regional commissions in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

ICW-accredited representatives are working on a voluntary basis and support their own expenses. At present, six persons are accredited in New York, five in Geneva, one for the World Health Organization (WHO), four in Paris, two in Vienna, two in Bangkok, one in Rome and one in Santiago de Chile. The reports of ICW representatives are disseminated by the General Secretariat to all National Councils of Women and to the Standing Committees set up to study the various items of the Status of Women. Those subjects are always in accordance with the priorities set up by the United Nations.

A system of Standing Committees was created in 1888 to follow and study matters related to the status of women. This system has just been restructured in order to be more closely associated with the new developments in the United Nations policies in the following areas:

(a) Status of women, legislation, implementation of conventions, human rights, international relations and peace, safety, well-being, education;

(b) Sustainable development: economy, consumers, women's labour, rural and urban women;

(c) General well-being: health, environment, habitat, nutrition;

(d) Communication: education, mass media, arts and letters, music;

(e) Social affairs: child and family, youth, ageing, migrations.

Activities

The ICW representatives have taken part in all major Conferences organized by the United Nations before the end of this century; and, of course, in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995. Participation was as follows:

(a) Attendance at all the regular sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York. At each session, the successive ICW Presidents made oral statements;

(b) Attendance at all the regular sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. ICW co-signed the written and oral statements prepared by women's non-governmental organizations;

(c) Attendance at all regular sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva, in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. ICW co-signed statements on women's human rights;

(d) Attendance at all regular meetings of WHO in Geneva;

(e) Attendance at all regular conferences of the International Labour Organization (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(f) Attendance at the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995);

(g) Attendance at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development;

(h) Attendance at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995. ICW was represented by the President and the New York team and a statement was issued by the ICW President, stressing the need to focus more strongly on the respect for human rights for women and on the necessity for strengthening the governmental and non-governmental partnership in the evaluation process of development policies;

(i) Attendance at the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Paris, 1995 and 1997);

(j) Attendance at the International Conference for Sustainable Growth and Equity, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

(k) Attendance at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in Istanbul, 1996;

(l) Attendance at the World Food Summit, Rome 1996. On this occasion, ICW presented a statement recalling the importance of respecting the CEDAW stipulations for women and the girl child;

(m) Attendance at the seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna.

Information on issues within the competence of all the above-mentioned agencies that was relevant to the work of ICW was sent to all its affiliates.

ICW is also working closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York and Geneva. Representatives are accredited at both headquarters.

ICW was involved in the big "Forum" organized together with the above-mentioned world conferences, especially in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Istanbul for Habitat II and in Rome for the World Food Summit, where ICW took the lead of the Women's Caucus.

Since its foundation in 1888, environmental problems are a sensitive subject for ICW which is closely monitoring "sustainable water management", and conservation of vegetal and animal species, by the dissemination of relevant information and establishment of data.

ICW is taking part in the various activities of non-governmental organizations which are held in parallel with the United Nations expert commissions, namely the Commission on the Status of Women, first in Vienna then in New York; the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, in Geneva; as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome; and WHO in Geneva. Moreover, ICW was present at the different briefings organized by the United Nations for the non-governmental organization community.

ICW is strongly in favour of the creation of an International Criminal Court, empowered to judge the crimes committed during the genocide perpetrated in the region of the Great Lakes region of Africa, and especially the crimes committed against women and children.

During its last Triennial Statutory General Assembly, held in Ottawa in June 1977, ICW looked towards the third millennium with the will to see the end of the system of exclusion under which too many women in the world are still suffering; and, together with other sister organizations, to continue the task of working towards common aims: equality for all human beings.

Regional activities

Over the last 30 years, ICW has organized many regional seminars and workshops worldwide on a variety of subjects, in cooperation with its national affiliates. Most recent venues have included Arusha (1997), Barbados (April 1998), on health and well-being,

Germany (January–February 1998) on peace maintenance, Budapest (April 1998) on women in careers and public life.

A seminar on "Women's Leadership: Help Women Help Themselves" is in preparation for October 1998 in Israel.

ICW also made an active contribution to the various women's days, and ageing and disarmament events, to quote the most important. At National Council level, there was active support for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In order to work in accordance with the United Nations system, four regional groupings of National Councils have been set up:

(a) In Europe, the ECICW (European Centre of ICW) has consultative status with the Council of Europe and has a leading role among non-governmental organizations there. It is a founder of the European Women's Lobby and is represented on its Board. The ECICW President is a member of the European Parliament. All legislation relating to equality of opportunity for women and men is closely studied and monitored and recommendations are made to the European Commission;

(b) In the Americas (the "ARC");

In Asia and the Pacific;

In Africa.

The four groups are holding regular meetings to discuss their own problems and report back to the triennial Statutory General Assembly.

Other relevant activities

Many of our National Councils are extremely active and valuable in increasing status and opportunities for women in their own countries. ICW acts as a powerful medium in relaying to them the issues of greatest current concern to the United Nations and encouraging them to give the issues priority.

ICW has set up a system of small development projects organized by women, for women and with the help of women. A special fund has been created to receive donations enabling local women's associations to initiate other relevant activities aimed at improving the life of their communities, for example, with better food and nutrition, water supplies and schooling, or through creating small income-generating projects.

In the same field of action, ICW is cooperating with five sister organizations called the "FIVE O", to help implement more ambitious projects.

As a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, ICW contributed to the production of a film, *Laruan*, aiming at fighting trafficking in women and children. Funding and/or support were provided for this special action by:

(a) At the United Nations: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, ILO;

(b) Other sources: King Baudouin Foundation, The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and member States of the Lomé Convention.

ICW is publishing a quarterly Newsletter for internal distribution.

6. International Road Federation

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

About the International Road Federation

The International Road Federation (IRF) is a not-for-profit, non-political service organization, its purpose and continuing objective are to encourage better road and transportation systems worldwide and to help apply technology and management practices that will give maximum economic and social returns from national road investments.

IRF was founded following the Second World War by business and industrial leaders who recognized the need for an international organization to focus on the growing economic and social importance of good road networks and to help rehabilitate Europe's road systems damaged in the war. Over the years, the IRF has led major global road infrastructure developments including achieving 1,000 kilometres (km) of new roads in Mexico in the 1950s, promoting the Pan-American Highway linking North and South America and launching its landmark publication *World Road Statistics*, as well as undertaking road research studies, including a 140-country inventory of road and transport research in cooperation with the United States bureau of public roads.

Today IRF is the international point of affiliation for about 600 member companies, associations and Governments worldwide which assist and support the dual offices in Washington, D.C., United States of America, and Geneva, Switzerland. IRF's mission is to promote road development as a key factor in economic and social growth, to provide Governments and financial institutions with professional ideas and expertise, to put members in touch with each other so as to facilitate business exchange, to establish links between IRF members and various external institutions and agencies, to provide support for national road federations and to give information to professional groups that build road infrastructure.

IRF carries out its mission through six major international programmes

These programmes are:

(a) Transnational road development: Advanced Integrated Motorway System for Europe (AIMSE) II, Silk Roads, African Highways;

(b) Education: the IRF Fellowship Programme;

(c) Training: executive conferences and videotape training;

(d) IRF advocacy and external activities: lobbying the European Union (EU) and its institutions for improved road investment and development, working with Governments in Latin America to achieve major road reform, participating in road industry events such as Intertraffic, Bauma and Samoter and cooperating with the United Nations and other international bodies to promote road development;

(e) Meetings, conferences and symposia:

(i) 2001: Fourteenth IRF World Meeting, Paris, France;

(ii) 1999: IRF European Regional Meeting, Lahti, Finland;

(iii) 1998: IRF Silk Roads Conference, Ashkabad, Turkmenistan; Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in Latin America, Buenos Aires, Argentina;

(iv) 1997: Thirteenth IRF World Meeting, Toronto, Canada; Russian Road Pavement and Finance Seminar, Moscow;

(f) Products and publications: *RoadEx* — a new/used road equipment exchange on the Internet; *World Road Statistics*; *Motorway Data Bank for Europe*; *European Road Sign Inventories*; and a variety of information publications.

IRF members by category

Associations, trade and sectoral organizations	40
Construction equipment distributors	8
Construction equipment manufacturers: machinery	245
Consulting engineering and management services	71
Contracting: road building	65
Educational and research institutions	27
Governmental organizations	50
Highway systems technology	7
Miscellaneous	3
Motor vehicle manufacturers	5
National road associations	38
Oil and bitumen industry	4
Publications	11
Road construction materials manufacturers	16
Road infrastructure operators	8
Traffic and safety devices	29
Tyre and automotive accessories manufacturers	6

IRF programme highlights: road development

AIMSE II: helping the EU to advance transnational motorways

The IRF's AIMSE (Advanced Integrated Motorway System for Europe) projects have had two phases. The first project, AIMSE, a comprehensive proposal for a mostly private sector-funded and -developed trans-European motorway network to be completed within the EU's Trans-European Road Network (TERN), was completed in 1990.

The follow-up AIMSE II was started in 1994 and launched in 1995. Together, TERN and AIMSE II aim to modernize 43,000 km of EU motorways and add 15,000 km of new links, creating an advanced user- and environment-friendly, integrated system. Major European companies are purchasing shares in a consulting company, European Economic Interest Group (EEIG), which will develop realistic traffic forecasts, integrate the TERN master plan and identify motorway sections that could be built by the private sector on the basis of the "user pays" concept.

Silk Roads: the IRF revitalizes ancient road trading routes linking Europe and China

The IRF has developed a multi-year programme to revitalize the ancient Silk Roads Europe-China trading routes which linked what are now the Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, with Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran and western China.

In modern times, the roads have largely become impassable and since independence in 1990, the republics have been unable to trade freely with their neighbours. This has reduced inter-republic trade by as much as 79 per cent and left little funding for infrastructure maintenance. The IRF programme, started in 1996, includes: publishing information on all agencies active in the region, a major IRF international Silk Roads

infrastructure conference in Turkmenistan in April of 1998, publishing road traffic data and conference proceedings, creating an IRF regional training programme for road professionals and proposing private sector consortia to undertake new road development along the routes.

The IRF African Road Data Bank: relaunching road development in Africa

In cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), IRF is developing a new African Road Data Bank of detailed information on all projects including location, traffic levels and costs. The project will be a key road development tool, since lack of data has been a major constraint to obtaining road investment funds. In 1997, after submitting a project profile to potential African and international donors for financial support, IRF and ECA are awaiting positive replies.

Education

The Fellowship Programme

Every year, IRF provides university scholarships for graduate engineers and transportation managers. Since 1949, 1,042 Fellows from 108 countries have participated, attending 78 universities in the United States, Canada and Europe. Graduates are highly skilled and exert a strong influence on the orderly development of worldwide transportation systems. The 1996/97 Fellowship Class included 26 Fellows from 12 countries: Argentina, Barbados, China, Estonia, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, China, South Africa, Swaziland and the United States.

Training

IRF Executive Conferences

IRF Executive Conferences are one- to two-week short courses for senior road professionals on a specific road-related subject. The classroom-style courses emphasize brainstorming and hands-on training. Speakers include university professors, bank officials, and experts from various disciplines, as well as IRF member firms. IRF holds four Executive Conferences per year. The 1998 line-up included: Urban Traffic Congestion and the Environment, Road Asset Management, Contract Maintenance and Road Safety.

IRF videos: practical lessons in road skills

Since 1994, IRF has continued work on expanding and updating its video training library of over 11,000 broadcast quality videotapes in eight languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Turkish and Chinese). Over the past four years, IRF has produced new tapes and translated dozens of others into several languages.

The IRF video training library offers complete technical training on: road maintenance, equipment maintenance and operation, construction inspection, cement and concrete testing, traffic control, job site safety, highway safety, contract maintenance, highway management systems, equipment management systems, construction management systems, low volume roads and technology transfer.

IRF products and publications

World Road Statistics

Produced annually and prepared in close cooperation with statistical offices in some 200 countries, *World Road Statistics* offers global information on: road networks and traffic; accidents; vehicle use, production and export; fuels; rates and basis of user taxes; and

examples of average annual taxation, as well as overall road expenditure. The 1998 edition contains added data including illustrative graphs and maps.

Motorway Data Bank for Europe

The first edition of the IRF *Motorway Data Bank for Europe* was produced in 1994, followed by a second edition in 1995. It contains more than 300 pages of detailed tables, maps and graphs, providing pan-European information on current and future motorway sections on a country-by-country basis. It shows level of traffic volumes, number of lanes, road ownership, and charging and planning priorities.

Prepared in cooperation with the Traffic Technical Institute of the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, the standard version comes with ACCESS and EXCEL diskettes, allowing users to make personalized queries of the tables. The Data Bank is also available as a geographical information system (GIS), providing electronic map simulations and complete software and training manuals.

RoadEx

Created in 1998, *RoadEx* is the IRF's new Internet platform for the buying and selling of used equipment by road equipment manufacturers. Many European road construction companies have often used equipment for sale, but may not know of opportunities where it can be sold or leased in another region. The globalization of business and the possibility of doing business on the Internet resulted in IRF and the Urban Mobility Network Group (UMN) creating *RoadEx*, a Road Trade Exchange platform on the Internet for road construction professionals and, in particular, for IRF members in Europe. By subscribing to *RoadEx*, suppliers can offer their used road equipment on a worldwide scale, while buyers have a central location where used equipment is easily accessible, cost-effective and user-friendly.

Participation in United Nations activities

IRF and ECA

In 1996, IRF and ECA signed a joint Cooperation Agreement, under which the two are pursuing a number of activities including the organization of international road and transport conferences and the compilation and production of an African Road Data Bank. The first joint IRF-ECA Conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1995. Since then, IRF has participated in a ECA conference in Ghana in 1997 and additional joint conferences are being planned.

ECE

IRF regularly participates in meetings of the ECE's Inland Transport Committee, as well as the Trans-European Motorways (TEM) project.

ESCAP

The IRF is cooperating with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the promotion of road development, particularly in Central Asia through the IRF Silk Roads Programme.

7. International Union of Socialist Youth

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

Headquarters address

Neustiftgasse 3/13
A - 1070 Vienna
Austria
Telephones: 43-1-523 1267, 43-1-523 8382
Telefax: 43-1-526 95849
E-mail: iusy@blackbox.at

Aims and purposes

The International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) is the union allied with the Socialist International in the international labour movement, which brings together democratic socialist youth and student organizations in their fight for socialism, democracy and internationalism.

IUSY aims at realizing democratic socialist ideas, such as are expressed in the Declaration of Principles. In this respect, the primary task of IUSY is to build ever-stronger solidarity among all young socialists in the world, thus making cooperation, common mobilization and success for socialism possible.

IUSY serves the youth through its member organizations by:

(a) Gathering members for common understanding and learning in order to develop policies and forceful actions;

(b) Representing the global socialist youth movement with respect to international associations and intergovernmental bodies, on the basis of the Declaration of Principles and decisions taken by IUSY bodies;

(c) Organizing joint activities and information exchanges to promote and develop the political and social work of member organizations.

IUSY was founded on 24 August 1907. During the two World Wars, its activities were suspended and it was re-established under its current name on 30 September 1946. In 1998, IUSY is made up of 132 socialist, social democratic and labour youth organizations from 100 countries around the world. The goal of our international is to put into practice and defend the ideals of democratic socialism.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences

General contribution towards the United Nations and its work with youth-related issues

IUSY tried to make a contribution towards the elaboration of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. For instance, IUSY presented a policy paper on IUSY and the United Nations to the "Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat" and the United Nations in general on 24 September 1994. On several occasions, IUSY has documented our disappointment at the lack of opportunity that youth non-governmental organizations actually had to influence the World Youth Programme of Action. IUSY also made efforts to encourage other youth non-governmental organizations to submit

amendments and comments to the programme. This was done even though IUSY considered the initial draft that was sent out for consultation as being rather "vague, politically watered-out and technical" (internal report from the non-governmental youth consultation at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 26 and 27 September 1994).

IUSY was also actively involved in the attempts to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995:

(a) Among other things, IUSY worked for a World Youth Forum to be celebrated in 1995;

(b) IUSY also encouraged its member organizations to lobby their Governments to send a youth delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1995;

(c) IUSY gave advice to its member organizations on how they could help make the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in their different countries focused on youth.

Participation in activities organized by the Subprogramme on Youth Policies and Programmes, at the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

As one of the largest youth organizations in the world, IUSY has worked closely with different United Nations agencies on youth issues, specifically with the so-called Youth Unit, that is to say, the Youth Policies and Programme Unit, at the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

IUSY participated at least at the following meetings organized by the Youth Unit:

(a) Non-governmental youth consultation at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, 26 and 27 September 1994;

(b) As a member of the Planning Committee, all preparatory meetings towards the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System which was held in Vienna, Austria, in November 1996 (for instance, from 17 to 19 July in New York);

(c) As a member of the Preparatory Team, all preparatory meetings towards the third session of the "World Youth Forum of the United Nations System", which was held in Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 8 August 1998;

(d) World Youth Summit at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, 3–5 March 1995.

Participation in other United Nations world meetings and conferences

In addition, in the period 1994–1997, IUSY participated at least at the following meetings/conferences organized by the United Nations:

(a) Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994;

(b) World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 1995;

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995.

8. World Blind Union

(Special consultative status granted 1984)

Introduction

The World Blind Union (WBU) is a coalition of organizations of and for blind people, which exists to actively promote the full participation and equalization of opportunity of blind people in society. WBU seeks to coordinate international activities concerning blind people, to assure the human rights of blind people, and to promote studies and pilot projects of innovation in service delivery or peer support. WBU is changing what it means to be blind through the power of the dream. It has member organizations in virtually every country of the world. According to our latest membership list, we have 154 member countries. These member countries have their own regional groups for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and the Pacific.

Interaction with the United Nations

WBU maintains official relations with the following United Nations agencies: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); seeks to interact positively with those bodies to ensure their support in pursuance of our main objectives; and makes an effort to assist in the accomplishment of United Nations goals by promoting activities aimed at securing equal opportunities for the persons we represent.

Involvement in the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in Asia and the Pacific

WBU leaders, international and regional ones, have been very much involved in all the initiatives that have been taken relating to the implementation of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. We participated very actively in the conference to launch this Decade held in Beijing. Our regional representatives are involved in the task force set up by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok.

Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Although the World Blind Union would have preferred the adoption of a convention prohibiting all kinds of discrimination based on disability, we participated very actively in all the initiatives to implement the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. Two WBU representatives were actively involved in the Panel of Experts working with the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development. We prepared a User's Guide concerning the Standard Rules, and the text of the User's Guide and the Standard Rules themselves are distributed to the people who specifically request them.

Human rights

In 1993, WBU formed a new standing committee, the Committee on Human Rights, and, in the period under review, that Committee has been very active in examining general issues, and in dealing with specific visual impairment-based violations of human rights. For instance, in 1995 we successfully intervened in Thailand in ensuring that blind and

visually impaired students would be admitted in universities without any barriers. In August 1995, in Lima, Peru, there was convened the second Latin American Conference on Human Rights of Blind Persons. Conclusions of that conference were published in our magazine, *The World Blind*.

Rehabilitation

The World Blind Union, through its Ad Hoc Committee on Rehabilitation and Employment, organized in November 1994 a World Forum on Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Impaired People in Jomtien, Thailand. The report issued by that Forum is being widely circulated.

Organizational development

The World Blind Union, in full compliance with the leading role which is assigned to organizations of people with disabilities in the United Nations Standard Rules, continued to work intensively in organizational development. Our Institutional Development Project continued to act very successfully, mainly in Africa, in countries such as Uganda, Ghana, the Gambia, South Africa, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Now we are trying to supplement that activity by promoting actions in specific linguistic areas such as those of the French-speaking countries, the Portuguese-speaking countries, the family of Turkish-speaking countries and so on.

Disadvantaged groups

During the period under review, the World Blind Union continued to develop strategies to attend more appropriately to the special needs of disadvantaged groups encompassing the spectrum of blindness such as youth, blind women, the elderly and the multiply handicapped.

Equality at all levels of blind women is our ongoing priority, and regional blind women conferences were held in Latin America in May 1994, in Africa in October 1994, in the East Asia and Pacific region in April 1995, in the Middle East in October 1995, and in Europe in June 1996. Prior to the Fourth General Assembly of the World Blind Union held in Toronto, Canada, from 26 to 30 August 1996, WBU organized a World Forum on Blind Women.

The World Blind Union has now a Standing Committee on Blindness and Ageing, which, initially, was a special task force created in 1995.

9. World Federation of the Deaf

(Special consultative status granted 1959)

Introduction

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is the peak international non-governmental organization for deaf people, representing approximately 70 million people worldwide. Membership comprises national organizations of deaf people in 120 countries (an increase from 93 at the end of 1993); and associate, international and individual members. In addition, WFD has seven (increased from four at the end of 1993) Regional Secretariat offices in

various regions throughout the world, and a Cooperation Partner in the European Union (EU) countries.

In accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and other general acts and recommendations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, WFD develops its activities towards the goal of equalization of opportunities for, and full participation in society by, deaf individuals. WFD works for human rights, equal education and the advancement of opportunity for deaf people everywhere.

At the present time, WFD's priorities are:

(a) The human rights of deaf people and the abolition of discrimination against deaf communities and sign languages;

(b) Deaf education;

(c) Strengthening associations of deaf people, and assisting in the establishment of associations where none currently exist;

(d) Strengthening regional work and cooperation.

The overall priority is given to deaf people in the developing world.

Cooperation with the Economic and Social Council

The Director of the WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific attended the Second Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (20–22 July 1994) organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the Philippines.

The then President of WFD attended the Meeting of International Organisations of People with Disabilities on 20 August 1994, in New York, United States of America.

WFD has been involved in the Panel of Experts to the Special Rapporteur on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities since its inaugural meeting (15–17 February 1995). WFD representatives (from Finland and Malaysia) attended all meetings of the Panel of Experts from 1995 through 1997, and all United Nations meetings in which the Panel of Experts participated. In addition, WFD prepared and disseminated to all member organizations guidelines on the use of the Standard Rules; this document was translated into all United Nations languages and a copy of the Standerd Rules in the relevant language was also included in the mail-out.

WFD was involved in the preparatory meetings for the World Summit for Social Development, and was well represented at the Summit itself (6–12 March 1995). Representatives also participated in an NGO Forum and an International NGO Conference on Disability (3 March 1995) and other meetings held during the Summit.

Four representatives attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, 4–15 September 1995, in Beijing, China.

Information about deaf people and sign language was provided to the United Nations Clearing-House Database on Disability.

The General Secretary contributed information on deaf people and their needs to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistive Technology Project.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

A WFD representative attended the First United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Consultation of International NGOs in Asia and the Pacific in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 7–11 March 1994.

A WFD Expert attended the Twenty-Eighth Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) Conference entitled "Vulnerability, the Value of Human Life, and the Emergence of Bioethics" in Mexico, 17–20 April 1994.

A WFD Expert attended the World Conference on Special Needs in Education entitled "Access and Quality" in Salamanca, Spain, 7–10 June 1994. This Expert ensured that the needs of deaf children were included in the document resulting from this Conference, entitled "The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education".

The then General Secretary of WFD met with World Health Organization (WHO) representatives to draw up a Work Plan for Cooperation in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 November 1994. This Work Plan was followed during that General Secretary's term.

The then General Secretary of WFD attended the International Labour Organization (ILO) Meeting of the Global Network of Research Centres on Disability and Employment in Geneva, Switzerland, 6–8 February 1995.

The General Secretary attended part of the ninety-ninth session of the WHO Executive Board, 13–24 January 1997, in Geneva, Switzerland.

A WFD Expert made a presentation at the Global Workshop on Children with Disabilities in Developing Countries, 5–7 February 1997, in Washington, D.C., United States of America.

The General Secretary attended the CIOMS International Conference on "Ethics, Equity and the Renewal of WHO's Health for All Strategy", 12–14 March 1997, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Several representatives attended the UNESCO-sponsored International Conference on Adult Education in Hamburg, Germany, 14–18 July 1997. These representatives contributed to the final Report and Recommendations from this Conference.

The President made a presentation at the WHO Regional Meeting in Moscow, Russian Federation, September 1997.

The General Secretary attended several days of the twenty-ninth General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France, in October 1997.

Additional relevant activities

In 1994, WFD published its *Manual on How to Establish and Run an Organization of the Deaf*, which is partially based on the Economic and Social Council's *Self-Help Organizations of Disabled Persons* (1991). The *Manual* specifically aims to help deaf persons establish and strengthen their organizations and work. Financial assistance for translation was received from a United Nations voluntary fund.

In 1995, WFD prepared the "WFD Guidelines on How to Use the Salamanca Statement" for member organizations, and disseminated this along with copies of "The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education" in all United Nations languages.

In 1995, WFD produced a video entitled "With Knowledge, Will and Emotion Towards Human Rights". This video focuses on the history and work of WFD, and includes a section about cooperation with the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies.

The General Secretary gave a presentation about the Commission on the Status of Women and its programmes at the first Finnish Deaf Women's Conference in October 1996.

WFD, through its magazine *WFD NEWS* and Members' Circulars, has regularly sent out information about and from the United Nations to its members, and has encouraged their participation on a local level. WFD observes United Nations days and weeks, and encourages all members to also do so.

10. World Organization of the Scout Movement

(General consultative status granted 1947)

The Scout Movement is a voluntary, non-political, non-formal, educational movement for young people open to all, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organization composed of its recognized national Scout organizations. Its first General Assembly was held in Paris, in July 1922. Since 1993, 17 new countries have been admitted to WOSM. At the end of 1997, there were 148 countries with internationally recognized national Scout organizations.

United Nations activities in which WOSM has participated

1994:

(a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): child health, signature by James Grant and Jacques Moreillon, in Geneva, of an agreement of cooperation between WOSM and UNICEF on Scouting's involvement in the world oral rehydration therapy (ORT) campaign;

(b) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): Third World Conference on Population, Cairo: active participation of Scout delegates. In conjunction with the conference, WOSM coordinated a youth consultation at the Cairo International Scout Centre, involving 110 young people from 60 countries;*

(c) International Bureau of Education (IBE) International Conference on Education, Geneva: WOSM is one of the few international non-governmental youth organizations to participate actively in this biennial meeting of ministers of education. Paper by WOSM (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of *Scouting and Non-Formal Education*.

1995:

(a) United Nations: World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen: WOSM played an active role in this summit and in running the youth consultation organized by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) on the model of the Cairo consultation;*

(b) United Nations: Commission on Narcotic Drugs: WOSM's representative in Vienna participated actively in the thirty-eighth session of this Commission;

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(c) United Nations: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: WOSM's representative in Vienna participated actively in the fourth session of this Commission, notably in the discussion on child victims of crime and child criminals;

(d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Forum on the Dialogue of Cultures, Tbilisi: WOSM played an active role in this high-level forum at the express invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor, and the President of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. WOSM paper (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of "Youth education for the dialogue of cultures";*

(e) United Nations: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing: WOSM was represented by World Scout Committee member Jocelyne Gendrin, and Debbie Ladds of The Scout Association (United Kingdom); in 1994, WOSM took part in the preparatory forum of international non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Office at Vienna;

(f) UNICEF: James Grant Memorial Service: WOSM's representative was in the first row at the memorial service at the New York cathedral. After the service, he met United Nations top leaders, as well as the First Lady of the United States.

1996:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): World Food Summit, Rome: WOSM has been involved in the preparatory work for this Summit, which will take place in Rome in 1996, as it has done regularly since the first World Food Congress, organized by FAO in The Hague in 1970;

(b) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul: WOSM was actively involved in the work of the conference, co-organized an international youth consultation with WAY, assisted with the preparation of the UNESCO youth day and took part in the Habitat-Health dialogue day organized by WHO;*

(c) UNICEF: ordinary meetings of the Executive Bureau, New York: WOSM's representative took part in the second ordinary meeting of the year, which focused on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);

(d) World Health Organization (WHO) Drug Prevention Programme: WSB presented contributions from WOSM member associations in this field (drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention) on the occasion of the 49th WHO World Health Assembly.

1997:

(a) WHO: International Conference on Health Promotion, Jakarta: WOSM was involved in the preparatory meetings;

(b) FAO: World Congress on Forestry, Antalya: WOSM was actively involved in the Congress;

(c) UNESCO Twenty-ninth Session of the General Conference, Paris: WOSM invited to address the Conference in plenary, participation in commissions on non-formal education;

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(d) Economic and Social Council: Twentieth General Assembly of Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), Geneva: participation of WOSM.

WOSM activities in which the United Nations and its specialized agencies have been involved

1994:

(a) International Scout Symposium on partnership and solidarity, Marrakech: active participation (leadership of working groups, plenary discussions and so forth) of representatives of UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF;*

(b) Thirty-seventh Jamboree-on-the-Air: broadcast of a special message from UNICEF Executive Director James Grant, recorded in Geneva in May of the same year.

1995:

Global Development Village, eighteenth World Scout Jamboree, Netherlands: active participation (leadership of workshops, exhibits) of ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);* signature at the Jamboree of a global cooperation agreement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees , Mrs. Sadako Ogata, and the WOSM Secretary-General, Jacques Moreillon.

1996:

Global Development Village, nineteenth World Scout Jamboree, Chile: participation in the first Jamboree preparatory meeting, in Geneva, of representatives from ILO, Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.*

Joint activities

1994:

(a) UNICEF: third meeting of the chief executive officers (CEOs) of international non-governmental organizations having supported the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Geneva: WOSM co-chaired this meeting on the theme of "Youth for Lasting Peace";

(b) UNESCO: Participation in the twenty-fourth NGO Conference: election of WOSM to the bureau of the Committee; WOSM paper (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of "Youth education for tolerance and peace";

(c) UNESCO: Regional International Non-Governmental Youth Organization Consultations: WOSM co-organized the consultations for Latin America, Africa and Asia. It was elected to the Bureau of the three consultations;*

(d) WHO: three seminars in Africa and Asia on adolescent reproductive health for non-governmental organization leaders.*

1995:

(a) UNESCO: Twentieth World Collective Consultation of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations, Tokyo: WOSM co-chaired the consultation;*

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(b) UNESCO: Twelfth Collective Consultation of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations involved in literacy, Tokyo: WOSM co-chaired the meeting; WOSM intervention (prepared by CEPRODOC) on the subject of "Scouting's contribution to literacy and basic education"; WOSM paper (prepared by a consultant) on the "Role of INGYOs in basic education";*

(c) United Nations: coordination of international non-governmental youth organizations accredited with the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Vienna: WOSM, via its permanent representatives, plays a leading role in these coordination bodies.

1996:

(a) UNESCO: preparation of the twenty-first World Collective Consultation of International Non-Governmental Youth Organizations, scheduled to take place at the Interamerican Scout Centre in Santiago, Chile, in April 1997;*

(b) United Nations: Paris meeting of the planning committee for the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, scheduled to take place in Vienna in November 1996. WOSM has been an active member of this committee since 1996;*

(c) UNESCO: Twenty-fifth Non-Governmental Organization Conference: WOSM co-chaired this meeting, at which it completed its term of office on the Bureau.

1997:

(a) UNESCO: survey on youth perception of on-screen violence. A survey conducted in 20 countries by UNESCO and the University of Utrecht with the operational cooperation of WOSM;*

(b) WHO: Memorandum of Understanding signed between WHO and WOSM on the launching of an Action Programme for the Eradication of Leprosy, July, Geneva.

Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

1995:

(a) WOSM Secretary-General Jacques Moreillon travelled to New York to meet with Mrs. G. M. Sorensen, special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General with responsibility for coordinating fiftieth anniversary activities. Two World Scout Bureau (WSB) members went to New York to ensure the follow-up to the agreements concluded at this meeting to mark the fiftieth anniversary;

(b) WOSM produced and mailed a special six-page brochure on Scouting and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations to all its members, providing information on the United Nations and ideas for Scout activities to celebrate the anniversary. This brochure contained a supplement on the main achievements of the United Nations since 1945, as well as a reproduction sheet for the logo created especially by WOSM, in agreement with the United Nations;

(c) United Nations: World Youth Forum organized by the city of Geneva and the United Nations Office at Geneva on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary, involving 220 participants from 70 countries, including 34 Scouts; WOSM was one of the main organizers;*

(d) United Nations: WOSM's representatives in Geneva, New York and Vienna took part in the celebrations organized by the three United Nations offices;

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

(e) At the eighteenth World Scout Jamboree in the Netherlands, Scouting Nederland held a satellite conference with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who was thereby able to talk with Scouts at the Jamboree; on that occasion, he remembered his own presence in Holland in 1937 as an Egyptian Scout at the fifth World Scout Jamboree.

1995–1996:

WOSM published several articles on the fiftieth anniversary in *World Scouting News*, notably on activities carried out by member associations (vols. 26 and 27).

Documents on/by the United Nations and its specialized agencies sent to WOSM members

Documents are as follows:

(a) 1993: WHO Health Education Award in the Area of Primary Health Care, circular 23/93;

(b) 1994: Scouting and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, circular 14/94; "Follow-up activities to the International Consultation of INGYOs on population and development", circular 26/94;

(c) 1995: World Heath Day, circular 5/95; Oral Rehydration Therapy Kit,* circular 9/95; Passport for the Future, with letter from the United Nations, guidelines and brochure, circular 20/95; Scouting and Refugees, with the protocol agreement between UNHCR and WOSM, the video Learning Peace, poster and brochure, circular 28/95;

(d) 1996: Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, adopted by the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, circular 11/96; Programme of World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995, circular 20/96;

(e) 1997: Scouting Involvement in the Elimination of Leprosy, agreement with WHO, circular 22/97; The Education of Young People, address of WOSM Secretary-General to UNESCO General Conference, circular 30/97; "Scouts target land mines", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 29.3; "Update: scouting and refugees", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 29.1; "UNFPA essay contest", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 29.1; "Scouts help UNESCO study screen violence", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 28.6; "Scouting and community development: 24 years of cooperation with United Nations agencies", *World Scouting Newsletter*, 28.6.

Legal status of WOSM vis-à-vis the United Nations and its specialized agencies

ECOSOC	special consultative status since 1947; general consultative status in process
FAO	liaison status
UNHCR	official contact status; cooperation agreement signed in August 1995
ILO/IPEC	official contact status
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	protection of the WOSM emblem (Madrid Agreement) since 1989
WHO	consultative status since 1987

* Activity and/or WOSM participation partially or totally funded by the United Nations.

UNEP	official contact status
UNESCO	category B consultative status since 1970, category A since 1991. Consultation status in the new non-governmental organization classification since 1996
UNICEF	consultative status since 1983. WOSM chaired the NGO Standing Committee from 1985 to 1989. Specific agreement of cooperation (ORT) signed in May 1994